**Lesson #1: The Life and Times of William Shakespeare**

**Rationale:** This lesson is designed to be used at the beginning of a unit studying a work or the works of William Shakespeare. Students will identify what they need and want to learn about, and then will work in cooperative learning groups to complete their research task.

**Projected Lesson Duration:** 2-3 days

**Essential Question:** Who is Shakespeare? What was his world like?

**Activating Strategies:** KWL (whole class) on Shakespeare and Elizabethan Society.

**Lesson Procedure:**

1. Have a brainstorming session with the entire class (using information from KWL) and create topics for research on Shakespeare and Elizabethan Society. (Examples: biographical information about Shakespeare, occupations, dress, customs, etc. in Elizabethan England, the Globe theatre, music…)
2. Write the research topics on the board.
3. Students will be placed in learning groups based on the research topic of interest.
4. Students will participate in a Jigsaw research activity, where separate groups will learn about a certain aspect of Shakespeare or Elizabethan life, and then they will present what they learned to the class. Learning groups may use handouts, the internet, textbooks, and other resources to research their topic.
5. Each learning group will then take their knowledge, and **each student in a single group must complete a different product option** related to the research topic. The project options on the choice board will be related to learning style/modalities.
6. When the products are complete, each learning group will present their products to the class, and will teach their peers about their research topic.
7. Students who are not presenting will write down what they learn in the “L” part of their KWL chart.

**Summarizing Strategy:**

*Exit Ticket Questions:*

1. Who was William Shakespeare?
2. What was his world like?
3. What do you think you would like about living during Elizabethan times?
4. What do you think you wouldn’t like?
5. How will your knowledge of Shakespeare and Elizabethan life, help your understanding of *Romeo and Juliet*?

**Choice Board**

**William Shakespeare and Elizabethan Society**

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| **PowerPoint** | **Song** | **Brochure** |
| **Video** | **Poster** | **Magazine Layout** |